Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A front-end loader for a percutaneous transluminal system for ~~a prosthetic occluder~~ an intracardiac device, said front-end loader comprising:

   a proximal portion comprising a proximal end, a distal end, and an expanded lumen positioned therebetween, said expanded lumen tapering towards said distal end of said proximal portion; and

   a distal portion comprising a tube comprising a proximal end, a distal end, a lumen extending therethrough, and a beveled end, said beveled end positioned at said distal end of said tube, wherein said beveled end receives said ~~prosthetic occluder~~ intracardiac device into the lumen of said distal portion of said front-end loader.

2. (Original) The front-end loader of claim 1, wherein the beveled end is chamfered.

3. (Original) The front-end loader of claim 2, wherein the beveled end is chamfered around the perimeter of the distal end of the tube.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously presented) The front-end loader of claim 1, wherein the expanded lumen is conically shaped.

6. (Currently amended) The front-end loader of claim 1, wherein said intracardiac device ~~prosthetic occluder~~ comprises an intracardiac occluder.

7. (Previously presented) The front-end loader of claim 6, wherein said intracardiac occluder comprises an occluder for treating an atrial septal defect.

8. (Previously presented) The front-end loader of claim 6, wherein said intracardiac occluder comprises an occluder for treating a ventricular septal defect.

9. (Previously presented) The front-end loader of claim 6, wherein said intracardiac occluder comprises an occluder for treating patent ductus arteriosus.

10. (Previously presented) The front-end loader of claim 6, wherein said intracardiac occluder comprises an occluder for treating a patent foramen ovale.

11. (Original) The front-end loader of claim 1, wherein said beveled end receives said prosthetic occluder to withdraw said prosthetic occluder from a patient's body.

12. (Currently amended) The front-end loader of claim 1, wherein said beveled end receives said intracardiac device ~~prosthetic occluder~~ to deliver said intracardiac device ~~prosthetic occluder~~ into a patient's body.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently amended) A front-end loader for a percutaneous transluminal system for ~~a prosthetic occluder~~ an intracardiac device, said front-end loader comprising:

a proximal portion comprising a proximal end, a distal end, and an expanded lumen positioned therebetween, said expanded lumen tapering towards said distal end of said proximal portion; and

a distal portion comprising a tube comprising a proximal end, a distal end, a lumen extending therethrough, and a chamfered rim, said chamfered rim positioned at said distal end of said tube, said chamfered rim comprising an outer rim and an inner rim, said inner rim positioned proximal to said outer rim, wherein said distal end of said tube receives said ~~prosthetic occluder~~ intracardiac device into the lumen of said distal portion of said front-end loader.

15. (Previously presented) The front-end loader of claim 14, wherein the distal end of said tube is beveled.

16. (Original) The front-end loader of claim 14, wherein the chamfered rim is chamfered around the perimeter of the distal end of the tube.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously presented) The front-end loader of claim 14, wherein the expanded lumen is conically shaped.

19. (Currently amended) The front-end loader of claim 14, wherein said intracardiac device ~~prosthetic occluder~~ comprises an intracardiac occluder.

20. (Previously presented) The front-end loader of claim 19, wherein said intracardiac occluder comprises an occluder for treating an atrial septal defect.

21. (Previously presented) The front-end loader of claim 19, wherein said intracardiac occluder comprises an occluder for treating a ventricular septal defect.

22. (Previously presented) The front-end loader of claim 19, wherein said intracardiac occluder comprises an occluder for treating patent ductus arteriosus.

23. (Previously presented) The front-end loader of claim 19, wherein said intracardiac occluder comprises an occluder for treating a patent foramen ovale.

24. (Currently amended) The front-end loader of claim 14, wherein said distal end of said tube receives said intracardiac device ~~prosthetic occluder~~ to withdraw said intracardiac device ~~prosthetic occluder~~ from a patient's body.

25. (Currently amended) The front-end loader of claim 14, wherein said distal end of said tube receives said intracardiac device ~~prosthetic occluder~~ to deliver said intracardiac device ~~prosthetic occluder~~ into a patient's body.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently amended) A method for delivering a collapsible intracardiac device ~~prosthetic occluder to a patient~~ to a defect at an anatomical site in a patient, said method comprising:

providing a front-end loader comprising:

a proximal portion comprising an expanded lumen; and

a distal portion comprising a tube comprising a proximal end, a distal end, a lumen extending therethrough, and a beveled end, said beveled end positioned at said distal end of said tube;

receiving said intracardiac device ~~prosthetic occluder~~ in the lumen of said tube; [[~~and~~]]

delivering said intracardiac device ~~prosthetic occluder~~ to the patient; and

implanting the intracardiac device at the anatomical site in the patient.

28. (Currently amended) The method of claim 27, further comprising:

introducing said beveled end into a lumen of a portion of an introducer sheath for the intracardiac device ~~prosthetic occluder~~ and crossing a gland in the lumen of the introducer sheath.

29. (Currently amended) A method for retrieving a collapsible intracardiac device ~~prosthetic occluder~~ from a patient, comprising:

providing a front-end loader comprising:

a proximal portion comprising an expanded lumen; and

a distal portion comprising a tube comprising a proximal end, a distal end, a lumen extending therethrough, and a beveled end, said beveled end positioned at said distal end of said tube, wherein said beveled end is chamfered;

receiving said intracardiac device ~~prosthetic occluder~~ in the lumen of said tube; and

retrieving said intracardiac device ~~prosthetic occluder~~ from the patient.

30. (New) The front end loader of claim 1 wherein the lumen of said proximal portion is joined to the lumen of said distal portion.